

CHESTER H. ALDRICH AND HIS HOME FOLKS

ALDRICH AT HOME.

David City, Neb., Oct. 1.—A canvass of the people who know C. H. Aldrich as fellow townsmen and neighbors during the last twenty years has just been completed for the purpose of letting the state know something definite about the personality and private record of the republican nominee for the governorship. The opinion of the community will be given in the words of representative people comprising it. They will show that Mr. Aldrich is a man of substance and fine reputation, whose private and public life can be investigated to the bottom without disclosing a flaw.

A correspondent going from store to store, and from office to office around the public square of this thrifty and high grade county seat town, found the business and professional men ready to give out their testimony in such a hearty and positive manner as to leave no doubt as to their confidence in their townsman, that he is not only able, not only sincere, but enthusiastic to carry into the executive office at Lincoln the high purpose expressed in the republican state platform and in his own public utterances.

What His Neighbors Say.

Across the street from the Central National bank is the general merchandise store of Mr. George Schweser. Mr. Schweser, being himself a successful business man, was asked to make a statement for publication of his judgment of Mr. Aldrich from the business man's point of view.

"I judge Mr. Aldrich's business as I do those of other men, from what he shows up for himself. He came to this county a poor boy, fresh from college, taught school at Ulysses, one of the towns in this county, came from there here with his young wife whom he married there, came here to begin his career as a lawyer, has been here ever since, nearly twenty years, has practiced law and been successful in that profession, engaged in other lines of business on the side from time to time, succeeded in the other enterprises, provided well for his family all the time, schooled his children, four sons, has now a profitable law business, one of the good homes here, has a 320-acre farm a few miles out in the country, some other property, and is, on the whole, not rich, but well to do, and prosperous. I call that success from a business standpoint."

"Mr. Aldrich is broad-minded and progressive in his views of public affairs. He wants the best schools, the latest and best methods and appliances in public institutions, but he is no visionary, no experimenter, nor waster of public money. I believe he would give the state a first-class and clean administration."

The next man interviewed was Albinus Eberly, a banker and retired farmer. "I have known Mr. Aldrich about twenty-five years," said Mr. Eberly. "When I was on the farm, I used to be called on the jury. A farmer juror watches the lawyers in court. He learns to judge their character and methods. I learned from that experience to know Mr. Aldrich as a hard fighter in a trial. He is plum full of energy, always in dead earnest about everything, but in the trial of a case he fights with all his might. He wants to win his cause. I have always admired him for his courage and his grit as a lawyer."

"But, Mr. Eberly, you are a bank director now, as well as a farmer, and you are a part of a 'big business' that is more or less jealous of the progressive laws and of aspiring politicians and public men who cater to progressive public sentiment. Is Mr. Aldrich a fire-eater, who wants to attack business for the sake of being popular with the masses?"

"No, not a bit of it. He is too much of a business man himself for that. He prospers in his own business affairs, wants every other business man to prosper, but he is a stickler for the law. He wants the business interests, big and little, to respect the laws, and he wants the laws to be made so that every man, rich or poor, will have an even chance. Both the farmers and the business men of this county will have confidence in Mr. Aldrich if he goes to Lincoln."

The next business man seen was G. W. Gates. He said: "Mr. Aldrich is a good citizen. I want to say that about him, because it is true, and the people of the state have a right to know it. Everybody here, even his most active political enemies, will agree to that. Mr. Aldrich is enterprising and public-spirited. That's a good point in his favor now. He wants the best conditions in the city affairs here where he was mayor for a time, and in the public schools, where he has been a member of the school board for years. He has had lots of experience in our public mat-

ters of this town and county and we know him as a leader who leads towards better conditions all the time."

Mr. Benison, a business man, said: "I have known Mr. Aldrich a good many years. From what I know of him, I would have absolute confidence in every promise he would make. He is no ready promiser. On the whole, I should say he is thoroughly dependable and will not disappoint the public nor betray the people if he is elected governor."

George Wanser, hotel man: "I knew Chet Aldrich when he was a young fellow teaching the school at Ulysses. I knew Mrs. Aldrich when she was a girl there before they were married. They have lived an ideal life, and have a fine family of four bright boys. The boys worked out on the farm when they were not in school. Aldrich is a clean home man. Everybody knows that. He is a great horse man. He used to own some of the fastest horses in the state. He has had lots of experience in fine horses and fine cattle. He has a herd of white-faced cattle now, some of them the best in the state. Aldrich has been a mighty busy man here. If he gets to be governor, he will be a worker. He can't keep still. He is right at something all the time, and he makes it go."

James Frater, druggist: "If you ask me about Mr. Aldrich, I will say this: He is a good worker, a good thinker, and a man of good purposes and good principles. He has an active mind. Now, I say that about him because it is true, and it's a good recommendation for a man who is going to be put in a responsible public position. Then I want to say another thing: He is a common man who puts himself on the level with the common people and thinks of them and of their interests. He gets this characteristic from his early life and he is too independent to change himself now. If he goes into the governor's office he will be square with the interests of the common people. His head is all right, his heart is right, his judgment is right, and his sympathies are in the right line."

W. C. Buchta, jeweler. "I believe Aldrich will be one of the very best governors the state ever had. He is keen-minded to see things, sees them correctly, and wants to succeed in whatever he undertakes. He is progressive all the time in his political views, but is no fault-finder nor chronic howler of calamity. He will not persecute an interest, unless it is something he thinks is positively bad, and then he'll fight it, no matter what the consequences are to himself."

Mr. Myaat, banker: "If you want me to make a statement about Mr. Aldrich I will just say that I know him well, know his business methods, his political history and his work here in a public way, and from that knowledge I would say he would be a thoroughly safe man for governor. He is progressive, but he's a builder-up and not a tearer-down. That's the way I would put it. You can't wheedle Aldrich nor procure him nor bluff him. Mr. Aldrich is an open kind of man. He secretes nothing. Whatever he is, everybody knows. He'll undoubtedly make mistakes if he gets to be governor, for they all do, but Aldrich will never get tangled up in any manipulations that will discredit him."

J. G. Ross, banker: "Aldrich made his own way through school, came out here to Nebraska and succeeded. He's a self-made man. He is not visionary. He don't get rattled. I have had lots of business with him and have always found him on the square. I believe that he will be elected and that he will make a splendid governor. If I did not think so I would not endorse him."

C. O. Crosthwait, banker: "Aldrich has the qualities that have made Governor Folk famous. He is quick to see, to judge which is the right course, and he moves straight forward with energy and ability. He is like Governor Hanley of Indiana, full of sentiment and full of enthusiasm in any cause. If he is elected governor, I shall expect him to grow into general favor with the Nebraska people."

Gene Wright, business man: "I cannot say now that I fully agree with Mr. Aldrich in his county option views. But I am bound to say that I have the utmost confidence in his sincerity and in his ability as a man, and that if elected his administration will be clean and competent. Every one here who knows him will say that of him, whether they agree with him politically or not."

Democrat Gives Support.

J. F. Ammond, hardware store: "I used to be a democrat. But I am supporting Mr. Aldrich now. I know him well; know him to be an upright man, a progressive man, one who cannot be swerved from

his duty to the public. He is neither a coward nor a trimmer. The people of the state ought to know him from his legislative record. He is what I call a man of the people."

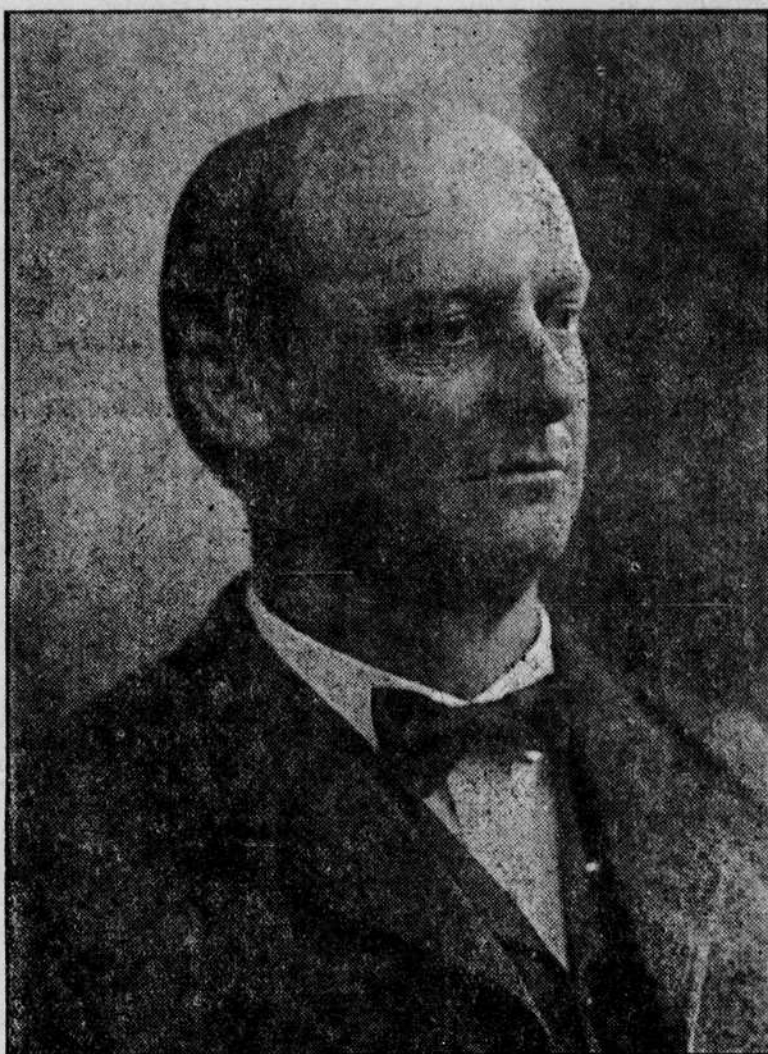
Ex-State Senator Hastings, attorney: "I am not agreeing with Mr. Aldrich in everything, but I want to speak fairly of him. He is a good lawyer, a good business man, and he is competent to handle the public business as governor. He is ambitious, I think, wants public applause, but he will do what he says he will do. His career so far has been a success."

Anton Placek, business man: "I

A. L. Hughes, abstractor: "Put me down for Aldrich. I believe in him and I conscientiously recommend him to the thousands who are to vote in the election."

Ed. G. Hall, postmaster: "I know Mr. Aldrich thoroughly and I hope he will be elected, not simply because he is a republican, but because I believe he will make good. He has right ideas and he will carry them out."

Henry Bock, farmer: "I am in a hurry. I am in town only for a few moments. I voted in the primary for Shallenberger, for I am a democrat. But I am going to vote for Aldrich at



have known Mr. Aldrich about twenty-five years. I knew him at Ulysses when he was a young fellow. I know that he stands high there now. He got every republican vote but three or four there in the primary. Mr. Aldrich is a very outspoken man. If he gets to be governor, he'll offend some people now and then with his abruptness, for he is decided in his manner, but the public will respect him when they find him out. Aldrich has a good deal of sympathy and sentiment in his make-up. Anyone who hears him speak in public can tell that. But he's got lots of practical sense. He's a close student. He has in his home one of the finest libraries

the election. I don't want to see this state cut loose from law and order and everything that is decent. We can't afford to do that. There's a lot of democratic farmers in this county who think just as I do. Good-bye."

William Kilgore, retired farmer: "I'm for Aldrich. He's on the right side of the case. He'll do what he says, and he'll do it right."

Troy Eller, merchant: "We are strong for Aldrich here. We know him and we believe in him. Some think he is too radical, but he is just simply in earnest, that's all. He wants what is right in government and we all want that. I think he'll be elected and I believe he'll make a splendid governor."

COUNTY OPTION IS NOT PROHIBITION

County option does not put in a saloon nor take out a saloon. On presenting a petition to the county board with the legal number of signatures, all the voters of any county may say whether they do want a saloon or whether they do not want one.

At present all the villages, towns and cities in Nebraska have option. The taxpayers outside the towns are required to pay court expenses and assist in the maintenance of jails and penitentiaries, thereby forcing them into the position of being taxed without representation and virtually disfranchised.

Should the coming legislature pass the county option law, any county not voting on the proposition afterwards would retain the Slocumb law and 8 o'clock closing law as at present. It is eminently fair to let Douglas county have what she wants and at the same time let the outside counties have what they want, which both could get by majority vote of their own people. Let all the people rule.

The democratic platform stands for the initiative and referendum, which will give all the counties the right to vote on the liquor question the same as county option. Hence, county option does not restrict personal liberty; it enlarges it.

In the state and is a great reader. I would sum up Aldrich this way: He is a good lawyer, a good farmer, a good stock man, a good man in public affairs, and he is above all else a clean home man and a good citizen."

Captain J. F. Zellinger: "We are backing Mr. Aldrich here because we believe he will make good. He has proven himself here among us and we believe he will make good if he gets to the state house in Lincoln. I want to say this in particular about him: He will carry out his promises."

John Harper, merchant and for four years treasurer of Butler county: "I have been here thirty-six years. I can sincerely commend Mr. Aldrich to the Nebraska people. They'll not be disappointed in him if they elect him governor."

L. C. Harris, a storekeeper: "We are proud of Mr. Aldrich in David City. We are expecting him to be elected and to give the Nebraska people an administration that will not be disappointing."

investigated and satisfied himself that he is right, then you can't move him. He was that way in the senate. That's why he is popular here. He got every republican vote but three or four in the primary at Ulysses where he used to live. He got all but seven of the republican votes cast here. He got all but twenty-five votes in the whole county, at the republican primaries. He'll get a lot of democratic votes in this county at the general election."

I. E. Doty, bank president: "Every fair-minded man who knows Mr. Aldrich well, as I do, will agree with me that he is a man of most excellent qualities in every way we measure men. He has good ability, plenty of courage and is absolutely sincere and faithful in whatever he undertakes. I know a good many bankers and men of affairs in this state. I want to be quoted as saying to them that I believe Mr. Aldrich qualified to be, and that he will be if elected, one of the safest and ablest governors we have ever had."

Well informed populist leaders, who know the voting strength of the party in the state and the general situation, say the populist vote for Mr. Aldrich will more than offset the republican vote that will go to the democratic candidate on account of the saloon issue.

There is no better authority as to this situation than A. M. Walling, one of the prominent citizens of David City and now grand master workman of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mr. Walling was seen at his office. He had just returned from Lincoln, where the populist state committee had rejected the old fusion with the democrats and refused to put the name of the democratic candidate for governor on the populist state ticket. Mr. Walling spoke of the old union that had existed for so many years between the populists and democrats, but said it was off now, so far as the election of governor is concerned, on this one question of county option, and that in his judgment 90 per cent of the populists would support Aldrich. They are for Aldrich, he says, not only on account of county option, but because they prefer the character of Mr. Aldrich to that of Mr. Dahlman.

"It was a great day in Lincoln," said Mr. Walling. "Our state committee turned down Mr. Dahlman, and while we were doing that, that our voters might be free to cast their ballots for Aldrich, the Hon. George I. Wright, prohibition candidate for governor, was resigning his candidacy in the interests of Mr. Aldrich, and at the same time, Mr. Bryan, loved by the populists more than any other man in the nation, was declaring himself against the democratic candidate, Dahlman."

"It was a great day. It all means a good deal for Nebraska. It means that the people who want law and order are getting together regardless of party. It is fortunate for the populists, who as a rule are farmers, clean and law-abiding people, that the republicans have put up for governor a man that every good citizen can support with a clear conscience. I have known Mr. Aldrich sixteen years. We do not agree on everything political, but I have found him square and sincere and I like a man of that kind, even if his views do not match with mine in every particular. We are together this year on the issue that is before the people and I intend to support him with all my might. The populists, so far as I know, are practically unanimous for Mr. Aldrich, and knowing him well, as I do, I am glad as a citizen of this town, where he lives, to recommend him as a man who will not fool the people who trust him. He's a splendid man in his public spirit. He gets behind things, such as our new library that we are building here, our churches, our schools, our city affairs, and he always works in a hearty and manly way for the best things."

Endorsed by the Ministers.

The last men seen by the correspondent at David City were the ministers. They are not on the street and so had to be called on at their homes. The Rev. Mr. Gettys of the M. E. church, to which Mr. Aldrich and his family belong, was warm and enthusiastic in his commendation of Mr. Aldrich.

"I want you to say this from me," said Mr. Gettys, "that Mr. Aldrich has the confidence of the Christian people of David City and of Butler county. Whatever his political enemies may say of him, they cannot truthfully say that he is not a clean man, a good home man, sincere and consistent as a church member, and he is a working member of the church. The other ministers here will tell you the same. There is no sweeter home than his, nor no man who is more loved by his family. Everybody here knows that. I am not such a church bigot

as to want him to be governor of the state simply because he belongs to my church, but I want to see clean, Christian men in public office, for every state government ought to be clean at the top at least. Go and see the other ministers and find out what they think of Mr. Aldrich."

Rev. Mr. Kleihauer, pastor of the Christian church, is a son-in-law of Dr. W. P. Aylsworth, chancellor of Cotner university. Speaking of Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Kleihauer said: "I have watched Mr. Aldrich since I have been pastor of our church here in David City. He is one of the leading men here and I have been interested in his course. I find him a man of good principles, true in his character and clean in his life as a citizen and as a church member. Mr. Aldrich planned the 'dry' campaign here three years ago when we drove the saloons out of David City. He went into the fight with the vigor and earnestness that characterizes him in everything he undertakes."

It was suggested that Mr. Aldrich as senator voted against county option.

"Certainly he did," said Mr. Kleihauer, "and we understood that here. County option was not an issue when he ran for the senate. If it had been Mr. Aldrich would have been defeated. This county as a whole is strongly democratic and strongly against county option. When the county option issue was raised in the senate he felt that he must vote a vote that would represent the majority will of his constituents in this county, because they had not considered that issue when they were voting for him and had not had an opportunity to cast their votes against him. But in order to put himself fair before the people of his own county and the people of the state when he announced his candidacy for governor, he proclaimed it boldly that he would favor county option and he put it out plain so that everybody could understand and could vote against him on that issue if they wanted to."

Rev. D. F. Firor, pastor of the Baptist church, was found in the basement of the church, helping to repair the furnace. He seemed glad to be called upon to give his testimony for his fellow townsman. "I have a high opinion of Mr. Aldrich," he said. "I got that estimate of him from my personal acquaintance and from what the people here say of him. I have been here only two years, but that is long enough to learn that Mr. Aldrich is held in high esteem by the church people of this town. He has been a consistent worker here for the best things. He is clean in his home life and has a fine family."

Dr. C. S. Beede of David City, a prominent physician, was seen on the train on his way to Omaha. He was very earnest in his endorsement of Mr. Aldrich. "Mr. Aldrich is an enthusiast," said the doctor, "not of the visionary kind, an enthusiastic builder up of any cause he espouses. He is a man who proclaims from the house-tops what he believes in the closet. You can always depend on what he says. I mean by that, that he will keep his promises. If he changes his course at any time, it is not for policy, but for principle. He is no political side-stepper."

Mr. Aldrich as an Executive.

W. S. McCoy, formerly of David City, but now with the Lincoln Safe Deposit and Trust company of Lincoln, was asked for his estimate of Mr. Aldrich, from the standpoint of his former association with him as an associate in city affairs: "I lived in Butler county thirty-two years. I was city clerk of David City twelve years. During that time Mr. Aldrich was mayor and member of the city council several years and was chairman of the finance committee. He has exceptionally good ability in handling public business. He is quick and accurate. He was the one man in the city government who gave close attention to the accounts. As mayor he put out the slot machines and kept them out and kept order in the city. They had saloons in David City then. There was an ordinance that required them to close at ten o'clock. This ordinance had never been enforced. When the day came for the licenses to be issued, at the beginning of Mr. Aldrich's administration, he called the saloon men in. I was right there at the time, and he gave them a straight talk. He told them before they paid their money they must understand that the ten o'clock ordinance would be strictly enforced. A little later some of the saloon men appealed to him to let them remain open till eleven o'clock on Saturdays. They said their best trade was on Saturday night. 'Yes,' said Mr. Aldrich, 'if I would override the law and say eleven o'clock, then you'd want to leave the back door open until twelve o'clock. You want to violate the law and you want me to endorse your violation, which would make me a violator, too. I have taken an oath and you want me to violate it for your benefit. I'll not consent to it.' And he didn't. He enforced the ordinance to the letter. I mention this because it shows him as he is, a man who respects the law and feels a proper sense of responsibility. Mr. Aldrich is not a bully, nor a tyrant, but he's a strong and positive man when he is under responsibility."